Rainfed Farming as one of the several fields of cooperation between the two countries. The fields of cooperation which the 'POC' whould encourage are given in enclosed statement.

(b) The technical cooperation will be implemented interalia by exchange of scientific and technical information, organisation of lectures, symposia, exchange of trainees, delegation of scientists and specialists, joint agricultural research programme and sharing of results thereof.

STATEMENT

Field of Technical and Scientific Co-operation under POC between India and Cyprus

Sl. No.	*Field of Co-operation*
(i)	Horticulture including floriculture and viticulture.
(ii)	Field crops including breeding of new high yielding varieties.
(iii)	Soil fertility, fertiliser use and irrigation technology including improved irrigation systems, fertigation and re-use of treated effluents for irrigation.
(iv)	Study, design and construction of water development projects and irrigation systems.
(v)	Land reclamation and erosion control of soils.
(vi)	Conjunctive use of surface and groundwater resources.
(vii)	Water conservation, artificial recharge projects.
(viii)	Scientific research in the agriculture sector.
(ix)	Rainfed Farming.
(x)	Animal Husbandry and livestock development.
(xi)	Extension education.

Closure of Poultry Industries

6795. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether poultry industries are facing the closure;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the maize, the main poultry feed is in short supply;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to save the poultry industries from closure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) and (b). The poultry industry in the country has been passing through a difficult period, mainly due to the shortage and high prices of maize, an important feed ingredient.

(c) and (d). Maize is in short supply for poultry feed due to decrease in production

and increasing demand from poultry and other competing sectors viz; Starch Industry, Human consumption etc.

(e): The following steps have been taken:-

(i) State Government have been requested to intervene to prevent hoarding of maize by traders.

(ii) NAFED has been asked to procure maize locally and explore the possibility of its import to make it available to the poultry sector at reasonable price.

(iii) Steps are being taken for increasing the production of maize in the country.

(iv) Financial assistance has been provided to State Level Poultry Corporations/Federations and similar other organisations for streamlining the marketing of eggs and poultry and supply of balanced poultry feed at reasonable prices.

Mushroom units

6796. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI SINGH: Will the Minster of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up mushroom units in the country with external assistance; and

(b) if so, the States where these are proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Soil Erosion

6797. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the problems posed by soil erosion in Orissa;

(b) if so, the total hectares of land in Orissa affected by soil erosion; and

(c) the Central scheme proposed to be launched to check the soil erosion in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to available information an area of 78.03 lakhs ha. is affected by various soil erosion and land degradation problems in Orissa.

(c) Substantial problem areas affected by soil erosion and land degradation are being tackled under State Sector Soil and water conservation programmes. The efforts of State Government to check soil erosion are supplemented by the following Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes:-

(i) Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects.

(ii) National Watershed Development in Rainfed Areas.

(iii) Drought Prone Area Programme.

Fishery Co-operative

6798. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minster of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: